

ADEN, 1937

21

five and three steamers respectively which run between Aden⁵⁰⁵ and Mukalla, Shehr, Berbera, Zeila, Perim, Djibouti, Mocha, Kamaran, Hodeidah, Gizan, Medi and Port Sudan. Very frequent services of dhows also trade to and from these ports and in addition to many other little ports on both sides of southern Red Sea, Gulf of Aden up to Persian Gulf and also to Socotra.

Many other shipping lines make occasional calls at Aden in connection with cargo, and other lines call at Aden for bunkers only.

The only ports for which there is a poor direct service are the Levant Spanish and Portuguese ports. Cargo is sent with transhipment at Port Said.

Roads.

There are no railways in the Colony and all transport is by⁴⁹⁶ road or by sea. The sea transport is not great and consists of⁴⁸⁸ the carriage of salt and building materials from Little Aden to Tawahi and Maala.

It is difficult to give an accurate estimate of the road mileage⁴⁹¹ as the side roads in the town which are used principally by pedestrians and camels do not require to be kept up, and the Royal Air Force maintain certain of the roads which lie in the Military Area. The Aden Settlement maintain 23 miles of bituminous macadam road and 19 miles of water-bound macadam road.

Motor Transport.

On the 31st December, 1937, there were 198 licensed public⁴⁵⁴ cars and 53 licensed omnibuses. The number of private cars was 367 and there were 66 licensed lorries and trucks.

The following statement shows the countries of origin of the⁴³⁹ above motor vehicles:—⁴⁵⁴

	No. of vehicles.
1. British Empire	234
2. United States of America...	301
3. French	9
4. Italian	31
5. German	14
Total	684

Trade with the interior is conducted mainly by camel caravans, but as roads and routes in the Aden Protectorate are being developed more and more cars and lorries are being brought into use.

Post Office.

The Postmaster at Steamer Point is responsible for the postal⁶⁵⁵ services under the general control of the Finance Officer. The²⁰⁶ offices in the Colony are situated at Steamer Point, Camp and

The following table shows the number of persons who entered and left the Colony during 1947:

12

ANNUAL REPORT: ADEN COLONY

	Emigration		Immigration	
	By Sea	By Air	By Sea	By Air
British	54	313	272	480
Other Europeans, including Americans	51	235	196	317
Indians	914	339	1,482	313
Jews	103	54	103	87
Other Asiatics	2	—	35	4
Somalis	3,512	4	3,299	32
Other Africans	27	6	51	30
Arabs	3,663	496	3,026	642
TOTAL	8,316	1,437	8,374	1,945
GRAND TOTAL	9,753		10,399	

Figures for the years 1944, 1945 and 1946 are given for comparison:

1944	Total Emigrants	9,460	Total Immigrants	7,371
1945	Total Emigrants	7,960	Total Immigrants	6,910
1946	Total Emigrants	26,661	Total Immigrants	25,851
1947	Total Emigrants	9,753	Total Immigrants	10,399

It will be noted that the 1947 figures have reverted to approximately those of 1944 and 1945 and this may be accounted for by the fact that the immediate post-war rush on travel has subsided, in so far as the Colony is concerned.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

Aden is primarily a port, and the principal occupations of the population are those connected with the port, such as the coaling of ships, the handling of cargo and the building and repair of vessels. Next come the entrepot industries such as the cleaning and sorting of coffee and incense, the grading of hides and skins, and the distribution or re-shipment of imported merchandise. The one local product is salt, see Chapter VI. Finally, there are some small industries, such as the cutting of pearl-button blanks from trachin shells for local demand, the manufacture of soap, the fashioning of aluminium utensils from imported aluminium plate, the weaving of imported thread into cloth or dyeing and printing of imported cloth for the local market, the crushing of sesame seeds for cooking oil, the manufacture of cigarettes and the fashioning (without the derrick's wheel) of crude earthenware jars for storing water. As a rough

26

ANNUAL REPORT: ADEN COLONY

222 ²² Kinds of fish are taken in fair quantity but no one species appears to predominate. Crawfish are reported as numerous on rocky bottoms, but they are only taken locally for sale fresh to Europeans. Oysters abound on the rocks between tidesmarks and could no doubt be cultivated in several landlocked bays where markets are available.

In general, the fisheries appear to be promising but localised and seasonal, the fishermen tending to follow the shoals along the coast. A fishery based on a harbour might have to employ vessels of considerable ranged storage capacity if landings were to be kept constant throughout the year.

226 ⁶⁵⁴ During the greater part of 1947 the Fisheries Officer was still under training in the United Kingdom, but the Fisheries Adviser to the Colonial Office himself spent a fortnight in the Colony and Protectorate early in the year and was much impressed by the quantity of fish available. By November an extensive survey of the fisheries resources of this area had been planned in London and a party, consisting of a fish oils chemist, a canning expert, a Political Officer and the permanent Fisheries Officer, arrived in Aden towards the end of the month. They were later joined by the Fisheries Adviser and a second Fisheries Officer was expected early in 1948.

By the end of the year the two technical experts and the Political Officer were at work at Mikalla and the Fisheries Officer was at Aden starting to equip two vessels for experimental fishing.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

304 ¹¹⁶⁷ ⁴⁶⁴ As already stated, the main industry is the bunkering of ships and the handling of cargo. These activities are in the hands of large firms, the labour employed consisting almost entirely of immigrant Yemeni Arabs who come south for a year or two, leaving their wives at home, and return when they have accumulated sufficient money.

488 ⁴³³ There are some small factories owned by private companies. The chief are soap works, aluminium pressing of domestic utensils, cutting of button blanks from tuchas shell, manufacture of cigarettes and dyeing and printing of cloth. These (with the exception of button blanks) supply the local demand and provide for export to adjoining territories.

Of industries organised among small producers, the principal one is the weaving of cloth, by one-man treadle-operated handlooms. This supplies Aden and adjoining territories. Small crushing-plants, with one cone turning a mill, extract sesame oil for cooking purposes.

The industries supplying the domestic market are mostly in the hands of individual craftsmen, or a master craftsman with a few assistants. Such are tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, tinmiths, garage mechanics, bakers, confectioners, potters, barbers, washermen and cobblers.

473 ⁴⁷¹ ⁵⁰³ Lorries are owned in small fleets by merchants and contractors; camels, the big buses are almost in individual ownership. Taxis are in small ownership, and mainly driven by Somalis.

As an example of the diverse nationality of business ownership in Aden, the following are the main concerns and their proprietorship:

646 Under the provisions of the Aden Colony (Amendment) Order, 1944, a Legislative Council was constituted for the Colony of Aden. The Council was inaugurated in January, 1947, and consists of the Governor as President, 4 ex-officio members, not more than 4 official members, and not more than 8 unofficial members. A list of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils is attached as Appendix I.

643 The Governor of the Colony is also Governor of the Aden Protectorate, which is not administered by the Colony Government. In each of the Western and Eastern Protectorates the Governor is represented by a British Agent, who deals with the various Rulers and Treaty Chiefs on the basis of treaties concluded with them.

There is no one Government for the Aden Protectorate; various Rulers and Chiefs are in protective treaty relations with His Majesty's Government. The Protectorate includes the island of Socotra.

692 The administration of justice within the Colony is entrusted to the Supreme Court, a Court of Small Causes for certain specified civil cases and Magistrates' Courts for criminal cases. The law of the Protectorate is largely tribal custom, but in certain chiefdoms the Shari's code of Moslem law is recognised, especially in the Quaiti State of Shihar and Mukalla (ruled by His Highness Sultan Sir Salih bin Ghalib al Quaiti, K.C.M.G.), which State legislates by published decrees.

632 During 1947 the local government of the Colony remained vested in the two Township Authorities, the larger being vested in the Fortress Township Authority and the area covered by it embracing the Isthmus and Peninsula with a civilian population of close on 60,000. The Military and the R.A.F. establishments are within this area. The other Authority is known as Sheikh Othman Township Authority and takes its name from the built-up township of 21,000 persons, all non-European, situated some four miles from the Isthmus. The area covered by it includes this township and the remainder of the Colony in which are to be found four small coastal villages the inhabitants of which earn their livelihood mainly by fishing, basket-making and lime-burning, and who look to the built-up area of Sheikh Othman as their main shopping centre. The total population of these villages is approximately 2,000.

[713] [361] 438 [643] [45] The members of the Boards which administer the local government of these two areas are at present appointed by the Governor. The Township Authorities hold fortnightly meetings to superintend the various municipal services such as the control of markets, the maintenance of public health and sanitary services and roads, the provision of recreational facilities for the public and the control of building operations. It has still been found necessary to maintain foodstuffs stalls in the public markets in order to ensure that the majority of the population can purchase essential foodstuffs, such as sugar and rice, at Government controlled prices.

443 368 231 During the year the Authorities opened a new market for petty traders and hawkers, a new public bathing-place where baths, with soap and towels provided, can be secured at a nominal fee, and a new cattle stable to accommodate 350 milk cows at Sheikh Othman.

OCCUPATION, WAGES AND LABOUR ORGANISATION 9

The cleaning, sorting and packing for re-export of hides, skins, coffee, incense and gum are occupations of considerable importance. Several big merchants as well as small exporters are engaged in these trades. No figures are available, but it is estimated that approximately 2,000 men and women are engaged as casual labour. Apart from some limited employment in domestic service, this is the only work in which women are employed in Aden. 463

There is no agriculture in the Colony, and the only local product is salt obtained from the sea by solar evaporation. This industry employs some 750 regular and 550 casual workers. 241 317

There is no heavy industry in Aden apart from some ship repairing (including floating docks). The light industries are confined to finishing processes using imported materials. The most important of these light industries are the production of aluminium, hollow-ware, soap, calico printing, and a little dyeing and weaving of cotton fabric, the manufacture of furniture and cigarettes. Machinery is used in the aluminium and cigarette factories, and to some extent in furniture making. The textile trade is primitive in the extreme and is entirely hand work. The weaving is done in the home, using primitive looms with hand-thrown shuttles. 438 463 286

Large numbers are engaged in retail trade, the distributive, catering and transport industries, and in small workshops or in independent crafts. Figures more recent than those of the 1946 census are not available. An unusually high proportion of persons are engaged in catering, particularly in small eating houses, coffee shops and in hawking food, tea, coffee and even iced drinking water. This is explained by the large number of immigrant male workers (whose families remain at home) and by the local custom of sending out for cooked food. There are also many domestic servants, particularly small boys employed in homes where purdah prevents the women from marketing. 463 [265]

There is a great deal of casual employment, comparatively few workers have permanent work, unskilled labour is entirely immigrant and dependent to a certain extent on economic conditions in nearby territories. Immigrant workers, whose families remain in their villages, usually return there after about two years. 464

Standards of craftsmanship are low, and the rate of production, quality of tools, and methods of work in general leave much to be desired. Mechanisation is almost unknown and a large labour force is thus employed in such processes as bunkering of coal by hand, and working salt in the pans, as well as, for example, in the building trade where even the wheelbarrow is rarely seen. Commercial firms and the very large number of small locally-owned workshops do not use any proper apprenticeship system. Boys pick up some knowledge as helpers, but are casually employed and may frequently change employment. A general all-round improvement is expected with the opening of the Government Technical College, where night classes for adults 461 [466] 874

PRODUCTION

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The Island of Perim was visited early in 1950, when a good haul of sharks was made by the fishery vessel. Shark lines have been lent to the inhabitants, but the pooriness of their boats, the bad weather and the roughness of the bottom led to the loss of many hooks. The Administrator of Perim has been granted funds to provide a motor sambuk during 1951, of which the Perim water-plant foreman will be engineman.

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Salt Works...	..	..	..	Italian, Indian
Soap Works	..	..	..	French
Dyeing and Printing	..	..	..	French, Indian
Aluminium Factory	..	..	..	Indian
Shipping Agencies..	..	..	..	British, Indian, French
Ship-owning	..	..	..	British, French, Arab, Indian

There are no co-operative societies.

Aden has no agriculture, forests or mines. Animal husbandry is confined to the keeping of a few hundred cows for dairy purposes.

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COTTON IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Virtually the entire Arabian Peninsula is supplied with cotton textiles through Aden. The goods usually are imported by the large international merchants who have offices in Aden and are distributed through the Arab traders.

SAUDI ARABIA

The greater part of Arabia is occupied by Saudi Arabia, a tremendous country of some 350,000 square miles, approximately the size of Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi combined, but it consists mainly of deserts and steppes distinguished for its aridity and barrenness. Considered one of the driest and hottest countries in the world, it cannot boast a single lake or river.

The population is estimated at 5.5 million. The people, except for those who live in a few towns and oases, are nomads who lead their camels and goat herds from one grazing area to another.

There is no industry of any consequence, and the agricultural resources are quite inadequate to support the people. Much of the food requirements, and practically all the manufactured items, such as textiles, are imported. In the past, these imports were financed largely from receipts of pilgrims to Mecca; now royalties from the oil produced in the concession on the Persian Gulf—40 per cent of profits before taxes—provide the largest part of the country's income. FAO is lending technical assistance for the development of the economy, and money from the oil royalties is available for capital.

There are plans for large scale agricultural development, including irrigation, and some of these plans include cotton. But no one thinks that cotton production will ever be significant in view of the limited agricultural potential and the growing demand for food.

This is about the only one of the larger countries which has not at least proposed the establishment of a textile factory.

The country is so primitive it does not even have a customs office and collects no statistics, so no one knows how many yards the country imports or how much the population consumes. The sales, for the most part, are made through the Protectorate of Aden.

YEMEN

The Kingdom of Yemen which adjoins the Protectorate of Aden on the western coast, is a sizable area of about 75,000 square miles, a considerable part of which is suitable for cultivation under irrigation. Like the Protectorate of Aden, there are numerous mountains near the coast which provide a source of water. At present the country has a rather diversified agriculture widely distributed throughout the country. It can usually supply most of its food requirements, and it exports some agricultural products, principally hides. Yemen might be able in the future to expand its agriculture and possibly even to grow a little cotton but the push is lacking for such a development. The little kingdom has gone through one political crisis after another and even now has an uneasy situation.

MUSCAT AND OMAN

The independent Sultanate of Muscat and Oman on the eastern corner of the peninsula is one of the largest subdivisions of Arabia with a coastline of over 1,000 miles. The country has a narrow coastline, a range of hills, and